

the years to the community and not to his own actions. He has seen a great deal of change in the region during his term, serving as the person residents call when they have a question about any new developments in wildlife patterns. During Dave's tenure, the area has been transformed from a primarily small agricultural community to a larger, less-rural community.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Dave, and their willingness to dedicate so much of their lives to the betterment of the nation, that make America so great. His excellent rapport with the community and his expertise will be extremely difficult to replace. I wish him the best with all of his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the "Improving the Community Services Block Grant Act of 2003" to reauthorize the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program.

The CSBG is an anti-poverty block grant that funds a state-administered network of over 1,100 public and private community action agencies delivering social services to low-income Americans. The CSBG Act was established in 1981 in response to President Reagan's proposal to consolidate the Community Services Administration and 11 other anti-poverty programs.

Block grant funds may be used for a wide-range of anti-poverty activities to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency. Such activities may include providing assistance in finding and retaining employment, obtaining adequate housing, and providing emergency food services. The CSBG also includes funding for certain discretionary activities, including community economic development, rural community facilities improvement, the community food and nutrition assistance, and the national youth sports program. The CSBG program is an essential tool in meeting the unique needs of each area and serves as a conduit for community services.

The bill I am introducing today would build upon improvements made to the program during the last reauthorization. It would promote increased quality by requiring states to reevaluate whether the lowest performing grantees should continue to receive funding. It modifies the current grandfather provisions that are tied to the definition of eligibility that guarantee funding for current grantees to a provision giving all current grantees a priority for continued funding based on their ability to meet grantee determined goals.

This bill promotes increased accountability by ensuring that states are monitoring local grantees to ensure services are being provided in the most efficient manner and that services are reaching those with the greatest need. The bill also requires the development of local grantee determined goals that each local grantee is responsible for meeting.

The bill further encourages initiatives to improve economic conditions and mobilization of

new resources in rural areas to help eliminate obstacles to the self sufficiency of families and individuals in rural communities, and expands opportunities for providing youth mentoring services to encourage education, life skills training, and youth crime prevention.

Finally, the bill continues the CSBG grants and discretionary programs at current authorization levels and extends them through FY 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to back this important legislation that supports improved services for low-income individuals and families.

TRIBUTE TO JACK POLLARD—A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding individual who has served this House for as long as I have—more than 26 years. Jack Pollard, who has worked on my personal staff and as a staff member on the House Armed Services Committee staff, recently retired from Federal service to pursue new opportunities in the private sector.

It's fair to say that I have known Jack for his entire life. Jack was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and grew up in Lexington, Missouri, which is also my hometown. Our fathers were great friends from way back, so the Pollard family has always been a part of my life.

Jack graduated from Lexington High School and attended the University of Missouri at Columbia where he earned A.B. and J.D. degrees. Following his graduation from Law School, he worked in Jefferson City as a research analyst and legislative counsel for the Missouri General Assembly's Committee on Legislative Research.

Jack served on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. His service included 13 months in Vietnam as a member of the 101st Airborne Division. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star (Meritorious Service) during his Vietnam tour.

After I was elected to Congress in 1976, Jack came to Washington to work on my staff as legislative director, and he has been with me ever since. He was my longtime chief of staff and most recently served as Democratic counsel on the House Armed Services Committee.

I believe that I must be one of the most fortunate people ever to serve in the U.S. Congress because I have been blessed with a staff member and a friend like Jack—a man who is not only talented and hard working, but who has also demonstrated his extraordinary loyalty time and again through the years. I have come to rely upon his sound judgement, his policy recommendations, and his broad expertise on matters both large and small.

For me, Jack epitomizes all that is good about the thousands of Americans who dedicate their lives and their considerable talents to public service. I will miss his daily advice, counsel, and calm demeanor, but I wish him, as well as his wife Beth and children Leslie and Michael, the very best as Jack begins his next career. I know my colleagues join me in

thanking Jack for his years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. MARY OF THE SPRINGS ACADEMY ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING OF A HISTORICAL MARKER

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 5, 2003

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to help recognize the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs Academy and the alumnae of the Academy.

Central Ohio takes pride in its history and appreciates the tremendous contribution to our community and nation by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs Academy through the education and development of our young people. Over a hundred and seventy years have passed since you began the effort to educate Ohio's youth, regardless of creed.

Your success in providing an outstanding academic foundation is personified in your illustrious alumna, Anne O'Hare McCormick. Her contributions to journalism testify to the quality scholarship demanded by the Dominican Sisters.

May this bicentennial plaque honoring the Academy's faculty and alumnae, living and deceased, and their outstanding fellow alumna Ms. McCormick stand as a reminder to all those who see it that our nation has always cherished the pursuit of educational excellence.

Congratulations on the installation of the historical marker.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2861) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans' Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise today with great disappointment in what occurred in the House today with regard to the veterans' budget.

Last spring, the original budget resolution passed in the House by a narrow vote reduced funding for veterans medical care by a total of \$28 billion over ten years, a far cry from what is needed for the health of our veterans today. After much debate about the veterans' budget, many members of this body—including every member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee—fought to increase the amount of funding for veterans in the budget resolution to at least the amount promised by the Senate. Thankfully, after a hard